

Application No. 09/543,764  
Inventor: John L. Howes

Art Unit 2165

Examiner: James H. Zurita  
Filed: 5 April 2000

**AMENDMENT A - CLEAN VERSION**

1. A business method for the direct supply for containerized liquid coating product inclusive of a plurality of particular, custom, colors by a supplier remote from a consumer, said business method comprising the steps of:

placing by at least one consumer of a customer order directly with a remote supplier specifying customer order information including indication of at least one liquid coating base, a color, a quantity, delivery address and identification of the customer;

entering said customer order information into a customer order subsystem comprised of software maintained on a computer;

compiling said customer order information with a computer and processing the results of this compilation with a production subsystem to yield production parameters;

operating, in observance of said production parameters yielded by said production subsystem, a containerized liquid coating production line capable of producing a plurality of particular, custom, color containerized liquid coatings with a precision in the addition of colorant to liquid coating base exceeding the precision readily obtainable by a conventional local retailer;

assembling containerized liquid coating product resulting from said production line fulfilling at least one individual customer order and packaging the resulting assemblage as required for shipment;

transporting each said assemblage of containerized liquid coating product fulfilling each said customer order to the delivery address specified by the consumer in placing the customer order;

whereby each said consumer obtains delivery of containerized liquid coating product directly to a specified address which may be inclusive of particular, custom, colors.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said containerized liquid coating product is containerized in rigid metal paint cans.

continued

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3. The method of claim 2 wherein fulfillment of said customer order includes partial filling of one of said rigid metal paint cans.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said containerized liquid coating product is containerized in molded plastic expandable containers.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said molded plastic expandable containers possess a collar about an aperture which collar is gripped during operation of said production line.

7. The method of claim 1 further including the step of identifying customer order information upon containers holding containerized liquid coating product.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of identifying customer order information upon said containers is effected with the attachment of a label to each said container bearing a digital code readable by a scanner.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of identifying customer order information upon said containers is effected with the attachment of a label to each said container bearing printed customer order information.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein said customer order information is comprised of at least one of the group comprised of: color name of liquid coating product, customer name, delivery date, quantity of product in order, number of containers for each liquid coating product in the order.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the operation of said production line includes the addition of blended liquid coating base to an empty container.